Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Were those appointments from among the medical officers ?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* I say, there was only one case.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Were there not applications from among the honorary medical officers ?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Appointments have been made from honorary medical officers. No outsider has been appointed.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* The question is who is to be preferred, whether the medical officers attached to the Rural dispensaries, or people who are not in service, and who have no experience ? What is the objection in preferring officers to new persons ?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* No objection. We do not object to appointing men from among medical practitioners.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* When fresh appointments are made, are claims of these honorary men considered ?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Yes, always.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* You say, there was only one appointment from amongst the Rural medical practitioners. Were there any appointments from among others ?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* From among honorary surgeons.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Were there not cases in which the Rural medical officers offered themselves to work as honorary workers ?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* There were such cases, but there should be vacancies.

JAGGERY INDUSTRY—PROGRESS OF

205. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Excise Commissioner has received any report in 1116 and 1117 from any of subordinate officers about the progress of the jaggery industry in the State in pursuance of para 299 of the Excise Manual;

(*b*) if answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative when and from whom; what do those reports disclose;

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(c) whether the Excise Commissioner has in his possession facts and figures about the progress or otherwise of the jaggery industry in different taluks of the State?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Excise Commissioner):*

(a) What is contemplated in S. O. No. 299 is that the Department should keep itself informed of the jaggery industry in the State as judged by the extent of the jaggery tapping in the various taluks. The extent of the jaggery tapping in 1115 and 1116 has been reported by the subordinate officers in 1116 and 1117 respectively.

(b) On 14th October 1940 and 23rd September 1941 from the Excise Inspector, Northern Circle and on 27th September 1940 and 2nd October 1941 from the Excise Inspector, Southern Circle.

There was an increase of 1738 trees in the total number of trees tapped in 1115 over that of 1114 and of 1247 trees in the total number of trees tapped in 1116 over that of 1115.

(c) Yes; about the number of trees licensed to be tapped.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* What all kinds of trees are included in the trees given?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Cocoanut, sago, palmyra trees.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Are the Government in a position to state that this particular industry is progressing nowadays?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Judged from the figures quoted, we think the industry is progressing.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappali):* May I know whether the Government is aware that this is one of the most important cottage industries in Talappalli and Chittur Taluks?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to see that the people who are engaged in this industry are given some facilities for marketing and also for improving the production of this industry?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* This is a question that will come up for discussion in the course of a resolution that has been tabled and then we shall speak about it. We

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are certainly for giving encouragement to the industry. Full particulars will be given at the time of discussing the resolution.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Are the Government aware that the Excise Department has been constantly disallowing request for licenses and that it is a hindrance to the progress of the industry?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The statistics I quoted here do not show that.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether in British Malabar, without any license whatever, sweet toddy for jaggery can be tapped?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* I want notice.

OPIUM AND GANJA—CAUSES FOR GREATER CONSUMPTION IN 1116

206. Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

Regarding the answers to question No. 135 which were printed but not taken up on 20th Vrischigam 1117:

(*a*) what was the cause of greater consumption of ganja and opium in 1116 than in 1115;

(*b*) have the Government come to know of any case of smuggling of ganja from the State;

(*c*) what were the amount of bids for the years 1115, 1116 and 1117;

(*d*) how did the bidders know that they were going to get superior qualities of ganja every succeeding year?

Mr. M. Raman Menon *(Commissioner of Excise):*

(*a*) The ration of opium was refixed in 1116 enhancing the quantity by half a seer each month. As regards ganja, the quality of the drug was superior and hence the demand was greater. The issues were made from the treasury and when during the early part of 1116 it was found that the issues of ganja were going high immediate action was taken to restrict the same.

(*b*) No. But in one or two ganja cases detected in the Madras Province the detecting officers seem to have suspected that the ganja was purchased from Cochin State.

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